PCTERM DOCUMENTATION

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When you use the PC Pursuit network, you soon find out that typing in all the commands to access the cities and bbs systems is a real pain. The existing terminal programs do not seem to help matters. They are lacking in one way or another. They do a good job with the local bbs's and the information networks, but when it comes to using them on Pursuit, a lot of typing is involved, especially if a city or bbs is busy. Most of the users know about the ATZ and control E function available in the city nodes, but they find it to be limited and sometimes buggy. They need a program that can do the dirty chores for them.

PCTERM was created to help users of the PC network have more time enjoying the system instead of getting flat fingers. This program will work with other information systems and bulletin boards, but it is not intended for that purpose. It makes pursuiting a more enjoyable experience.

REQUIRED FILES

PCTERM has been tested with Sparta Dos and DOS 2.5. SpartaDos is recommended. The files needed on your DOS disk are PCTERM, PCDIALER, PASSPC, AUTORUN.SYS, INIT.DAT, CITY1.DAT, CITY2.DAT, AREA1.DAT, AREA2.DAT and the city node files that end with the extender of .BBS. The city node files and the file called PASSPC are created and edited with the PCDIALER program. PASSPC contains your password logon code for PC Pursuit. Do not give this file out if you distribute the terminal.

THE AUTORUN.SYS

The AUTORUN.SYS file is the core of the terminal program. It relocates to lomem and is RESET proof. This version contains the 850 boot code and will work with the PR Connection, MIO, and 850 interface. A PD SX212 handler is available for owners of the Atari 1200 baud modem and will be on GENIE or COMPUSERVE soon. The MPP/SUPRA 300 and XM301/1030 modems also work with this program if you have one of the handlers marketed by BitWise Computer Services. Their address is: P.O. Box 2552 Sarasota, Florida 33578. These handlers are considered the best on the market and have run every term or bbs program with any DOS available for the 8-bit that I have tested them with. You receive full documentation, examples of term programs in BASIC, ACTION, and Assembly, plus a utility that removes the 850 booter code from an OBJECT file terminal program and installs the handler in it's place. The price for the MPP or XM301/1030 Hayes Emulators is $20.00. Let them know that you are ordering in reference to PCTERM and they will include the AUTORUN.SYS file that contains the boot code for PCTERM appended to the handler.

LOADING

Boot the disk with BASIC installed. Once DOS is loaded, the AUTORUN.SYS file will load and then run the PCTERM program. You will get an error message. Run the program called PCDIALER and select option 1. This will allow you to create the file called PASSPC. It contains your pursuit logon password.

When the information is saved to disk, press the esc key to return to PCTERM. (You can jump back and forth between programs by pressing the esc key while in the main menu of either program. Even if you are online.)

** WARNING: Do not exit the PCTERM program if you wish to remain in a certain city node. It will not remember what city you were in when you return from using the PCDIALER program.

The default baud rate is 1200. Your baud rate determines what baud selection PCTERM gives to pursuit when dialing a city. You must manually dial the pc phone number in your area by typing ATDT###-#### or whatever your modem requires to dial a number.

CONNECTING

When you are connected, press the return key two times, then type D1 and press return. Now press the START key to see the main menu.

[A]-Auto PC: will load in bbs numbers for the city you are currently in. Once this function is selected, it will retain the numbers in memory until you switch to another city. This will take you to the bbs dialing menu.

[B]-Baud Rate: toggles from 1200 to 300 baud.

[C]-Capture: Sets up a capture file on the drive you specify and returns you to the terminal mode. The screen border will be a light blue. You can now toggle capture on/off with the OPTION key. When the buffer gets close to being filled, it will send a control-S over the modem and continue capturing until the bbs stops sending text. It will then save the data, send a control-Q over the modem and continue capturing. Pressing the START key closes down the capture function and saves the partial buffer to the disk.

[D]-Default Drive: Sets the drive number of your choice..default is 1.

[E]-Erase: Deletes a file.

[F]-Format: Formats the disk in the drive that you specify.

[P]-Plex: Toggles between full and half duplex.

[R]-Receive: Allows you to input the filename you are downloading and then

shows you a menu of transfer types available. You will return to the term mode. Press the START key to begin the transfer. To abort the transfer, press and hold the START key at any time.

[S]-Send: Same as above but uploads a file. In send and receive, Xmodem, Xmodem-crc, Ymodem, and Cmodem protocals are supported.

[T]-Translation: Toggles between ascii and atascii.

[V]-View/Print: View a disk file on the screen or dump it to printer.

[W]-Wipe Timer: Resets the timer to 00:00:00.

[Z]-PC City: Takes you to the city menu where you tell PCTERM what area node to call. Once a node has been selected, it will continue to redial if it is busy. To abort this function press the START key. To return to the term mode, press the return key.

[1-8 Directory]: Is self explanatory.

Auto PC Scan

When this function is selected, it will access the disk file of the city node you are connected with. You will see a list of available systems and a prompt..Enhanced or Normal dialing.
Sometimes a city node will be having difficulty and will not allow you to use the enhanced dialing option. You must then use the normal dialing option.

Next, you can scan in several different ways.
[1]-Call the same bbs over and over.
[2]-Scan between the bbs systems you specify.
[3]-Scan all of the systems on the list.
[4]-Manual dial.

If you connect to a bbs while using option 1, 2, or 3, the name of the system will be printed in the information display on top of your screen. You will also hear two beeps. If something goes wrong somewhere down the line, you will hear one beep. In this way, you have the option to leave the room while the program is scanning. In most cases, when you hear one beep, an error message is displayed to let you know what happened. To return to the scan menu, press return. NOTE: To abort a scan, press the START key.

MACROS

Macros are sent from the term mode by pressing shift/control 1-4. Macro #1 is not available to the user. It contains the password to the bbs system you are

calling and is set up when you have dialed a bbs from the Auto-PC menu. Line number 20000 in the program contains the strings that you can modify. (up to 15 characters) It is best to load in PCTERM and make the changes to the macro strings without running the program. Save the new PCTERM program to the disk with the modified macros, and then run the program.

RAMDISKS

Memory enhancements and products like the MIO have become popular these days. If you have a ramdisk available, you can change the D1: in line 550 of the PCDIALER program to your ramdisk number. PCTERM can be modified the same way.

Change the D1: in the following lines:

2330
2610
3780
5225
5730
6260
10000
10190

The ramdisk has to have the following files: PCTERM, PCDIALER, PASSPC, and all of the files with either the DAT or BBS extender.
You can now remove the PCTERM disk from your drive.

NOTES

When dialing cities, sometimes pursuit gets confused. This also happens sometimes when scanning or dialing bbs systems when you are connected to a city. This is not the fault of PCTERM. In most cases it will give you a communication error to let you know something did not happen correctly. All you need to do is set up whatever function you were doing again.

If all else fails, return Pursuit to the term mode and type ATZ. Then press the return key in ascii or a control-M in atascii and continue with what you were doing.

START takes you from term mode to the menu. (unless you have a transfer setup). To exit the menu press return.

SELECT activates the print screen function. (unless you have a transfer setup).

OPTION toggles capture on or off. (if the capture function is not selected from the main menu, then nothing is captured. The border will still change color)

SHIFT & OPTION toggles the information window on top of the screen on or off. (It will also turn off by itself if the cursor is behind it.)

This program is released as shareware. If you like using this program, why not send a donation for the cause and become registered? Registered users will have access to updates and transfer protocals. The latest protocal available is Cmodem, created by Carina Software. It allows you to send one file or a whole disk of files with more speed and control. (especially over PC Pursuit). The new Carina II BBS System will be supporting it.

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